

Meet the Board

Julie Garden-Robinson (ND), NEAFCS President-Elect

When I attended my first NEAFCS meeting many years ago, I was inspired by the commitment of the leaders and members to our organization. At the time, I was not envisioning myself on the board, much less being president-elect, at some point in my career. I was busy raising my children and learning my own role as a food and nutrition specialist.



Then I went to a committee meeting for public affairs. I became “hooked” on NEAFCS leadership as I learned about the association, and I honed my leadership skills with the goal of making a difference. I later served as Vice President for Public Affairs and as Vice President of Awards and Recognition. I invite all of you to explore the options that NEAFCS provides for professional development, as well as leadership development. You never know where attending a committee meeting may lead!

I grew up in a small town in rural Minnesota. On the professional side, I went on to earn degrees in dietetics with a minor in music, a master’s degree in food science, and finally, a Ph.D. in cereal chemistry and food technology. My wedding day was the same day as my Ph.D. graduation day, so I am used to multitasking. My first role was teaching food and nutrition courses at North Dakota State University in Fargo, where I remain as a professor and Extension food and nutrition specialist. I conduct research, work with students, and implement statewide Extension programs in nutrition, food safety and health for all ages. I have written a weekly column, *Prairie Fare*, for more than 24 years.

On the home front, I am married with three young-adult children, including a son, two daughters plus three “senior” dachshunds. Two of my children are now college graduates (and employed!) and my youngest is completing her freshman year in college. My husband and I have entered the empty-nest phase of life, but we seem to be just as busy now as when we were dropping children at their events. I have been a music coordinator at my church for about 23 years and I play the flute in a community band. My husband and I are master gardeners and volunteer in our community.

I am looking forward to my year as president! I am following in the footsteps of our very capable and dedicated current and former presidents. If you have thoughts to inspire me as I begin my presidential journey next fall, please feel free to reach out to me at julie.garden-robinson@ndsu.edu or 701.231.7187. I look forward to working with all of you and helping navigate our journey.